

KNAU, the public radio station at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona strongly urges the FCC to protect FM translator service. We presently operate one translator in Kingman, AZ and are authorized to construct eight additional translators in Prescott, Payson, Cottonwood and Page, AZ. Any ruling to reduce these translators to secondary status, behind LPFM stations, would harm the public interest.

KNAU has operated translator K209AN in Kingman since 1988. It is the only public radio signal serving this remote, isolated yet rapidly growing community of 24,000 persons. Kingman, AZ is far removed from public radio signals in Las Vegas, NV (100 miles) and Flagstaff, NV (180.) Mountainous terrain further isolates Kingman from FM signals.

Because KMOH-TV Channel 6 operates in Kingman, there are relatively few signals in the FM reserved band. There will never be a full-service public radio station authorized to Kingman because of possible Channel 6 FM interference. Without KNAU's translator service to Kingman, it would be a city entirely unserved by public radio.

Kingman residents strongly support KNAU's FM translator with their voluntary financial contributions. The FCC can expect outraged citizens if action is taken to jeopardize KNAU's existing public radio service. Back in 1986, Kingman citizens wrote letters and raised money to bring public radio to their community. Toni Robinson said public radio is "a godsend." Kathleen Stanley says "our town has many fine qualities but it lacks cultural resources" which public radio "assists in fulfilling."

Funding for K209AN came from the Commerce Department's Public Telecommunications Facilities Program and grassroots fundraising efforts by local residents. In the nearly 20 years the translator has served Kingman, a local telecommunications company, Western Electronics, has contributed tower space and electricity for free.

Kingman has a degree of national notoriety. It is the place where Timothy McVeigh hatched his plan to bomb Oklahoma City's Federal Building. Public radio connects Kingman to the outside world, which has the positive effect of counter-acting uncivil thinking and actions such as McVeigh's. McVeigh is in no way representative of Kingman. With KNAU, citizens in this remote community benefit from an broadened worldview.

KNAU has received FCC authorizations for additional translators in Payson, Prescott, Cottonwood and Page to fix reception problems caused by northern Arizona's mountainous terrain.

In Payson, Prescott and Cottonwood, mountains prevent the public from receiving clear signals. Mingus Mountain outside Cottonwood creates multipath for KNAU's main signal. The Bradshaw Mountains outside Prescott make KNAU's Prescott signal spotty. Citizens in Page are denied classical music because numerous mountain passes on the Navajo Indian Reservation interfere with clear reception.

KNAU seeks to enhance public service with our translators. In 2003's FCC FM Translator Auction # 83, KNAU spent approximately \$32,000 for engineering and legal fees. We are a small rural public radio network serving a thinly populated, geographically remote area. \$32,000 is a significant investment for us. It would be unfair for the FCC to change rules midstream and force us to forfeit that investment.

Citizens in northern Arizona treasure KNAU and its translators. The most adverse impact of an FCC action relegating translators to second class status would be felt by the public. Thousands of KNAU listeners would be adversely affected. Please rule in favor of maintaining existing services.